THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No Sir. The office of the Zonal Manager (Marketing) Eastern Zone of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. was located in Calcutta till 1978.

(b) to (d). The office of General Manager (Marketing) of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) which operated from Calcutta on formation of HFC in 1978, was shifted to New Delhi in 1989 in the interest of effective control and coordination. In addition to the sales functions the marketing office also interfaces with various agencies including the Departments/Ministries of the Government to ensure effective supply and distribution of fertilizers.

[Translation]

Closing of Krishi Vigyan Kendras

2536. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down some of the Krishi Vigyan Kendras;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has given its approval in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, whether any concrete steps have been taken by the Government to make these Krishi Vigyan Kendras more viable in the country particularly in the tribal/backward rural areas of Gujarat; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) and (d). The Planning Commission has conveyed about the continuance of funding to the Krishi Vigyan Kendras for the time being till a final view is taken with regard to the funding pattern to be followed in the IXth Five Year Plan.

(e) and (f). The decision of the Planning Commission has been conveyed to all the Krishi Vigyan Kendras including the KVKs located in Tribal/backward rural areas of Gujarat.

[English]

Laboratory Equipments

2537. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to make it binding for the bulk traders of milk to install laboratory equipments similar to those installed by the Mother Dairy for testing the quality of milk in order to control the supply of adulterated milk;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c). The provisions of the Milk and Milk Product Order, 1992 relating to quality of milk and milk products make it binding on the part of anyone handling more than 10,000 litres of milk per day to have in his premises, the necessary laboratory equipments and other facilities for testing the quality of milk.

Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited

2538. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision had been taken in the year 1978 to shift the Headquarter of HCL from Delhi to Calcutta;

(b) if so, whether it is feasible to locate its headquarter at Calcutta instead of Delhi; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c). At the initial stages of formation of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC) as a rsult of reorganisation of Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited in 1978, a decision was taken to shift the Headquarters of HFC out of Delhi to Calcutta. However this decision was not implemented due to reasons which interalia included objection by the Headquarter staff, the advantages of keeping Headquarter in Delhi for close interaction with Government till final decision on rehabilitation was taken, as also the need to avoid administrative expenditure connected with shifting. Shifting of Headquarter to Calcutta is not feasible also in view of existing Government guidelines under which shifting is required to be made outside Delhi to locations other than the metropolitan cities like Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai.

Research on Oil Palm Cultivation

2539. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil Palm Demonstration Projects (OPDPs) at the instance of Department of Biotechnology have initiated research and development for various aspects of oil palm cultivation including the tissue culture propogation;